

*Lowell Public Schools*

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

April 1, 2020





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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### How Did We Get Here?

- The Lowell Public Schools have been following the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation closely since the beginning of March.
- The district has taken part in conference calls with DPH and DESE, and has been in regular communication with Lowell Health Department.
- Prior to closing, the district kept families and staff informed with COVID-19 email updates sent on March 3, 5 and 11. There were also additional updates shared on social media and on the district website.



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### How Did We Get Here?

- The Lowell Public Schools have been closed since Monday, March 16. The projected return date is Monday, May 4.
  - *On March 13, LPS announced a 2 week closure.*
  - *On March 15, Governor Baker announced all schools in the state will be closed for 3 weeks*
  - *On March 25, Governor Baker extended the state-wide closure until May 4*
- Prior to our closure, we announced that the district was canceling any out-of-state domestic school-related travel and any school-organized international trips for student groups, following the recommendations of Governor Baker and DESE.



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## COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- Connect Ed – messages sent out to entire student population
  - Emails
  - Phone Calls
- Website
  - Built COVID-19 info page on the district home page. This page is updated with the latest information and is accessible from all websites throughout the district. Includes dedicated pages for our grab and go meal service and at home learning opportunities.
- Social Media
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Emails to staff
- Translation of messages in multiple languages (Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer, Swahili)



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### COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS – Work in Progress

- Updating contact information for families
- Initiating phone calls to newcomer families to connect them with resources and communications platforms
  - Language line
  - FRC family support line
- Improving the website and highlighting the translation function
- Creating a community communication listserv to share core family communications with community partners



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### ▣ STILL PROVIDING MEAL SERVICE

- We are still providing breakfast and lunch for students during the weekdays at nine sites while school is closed: Bartlett, Butler, Greenhalge, Lincoln, Moody, Murkland, Pawtucketville, Robinson, and STEM (Rogers).
  - ▣ All students ages 2-18 are eligible for meal service
  - ▣ Given circumstances, students don't have to be present to pick up food. A parent or neighbor can pick up food.
  - ▣ Students/families are able to pick up breakfast for the next day when they pick up that day's lunch



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### AT HOME LEARNING

- We have launched an at home learning section on our website with enrichment activities the Curriculum Office has put together to support your child's learning at each grade level and across various subjects to include ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, Social Emotional Learning and Physical Activities.
- At home learning packets have been made available at our lunch sites for students/families to take home. These packets can also be found on our website as downloadable PDFs. 2500 packets were printed for both week 1 and week 2 for distribution.
- Resources to address mental health and social emotional needs have also been uploaded to a dedicated section of our website. These materials have also been printed and made available at our lunch sites.



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### AT HOME LEARNING - Planning Forward

- **Remote Learning (Guidance from DESE; Mar. 26)**
  - Districts and schools must work to adopt a remote learning model.
  - Nothing can replace the in-person schooling experience, and we should not expect that remote learning can replicate the traditional school day.
  - Remote learning is not synonymous with online learning. Remote learning can take place in a variety of ways.





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### AT HOME LEARNING / SCHOOL SPIRIT

- **VIRTUAL READ ALOUDS:** We have launched a YouTube channel for virtual read alouds. There are more than 100 videos featuring Lowell Public Schools teachers, principals, staff, and even some students reading classic children's books.
- **VIRTUAL SPIRIT DAYS:** Some of our schools are holding virtual spirit days like pajama day, hat day, or game day, where families/staff are encouraged to submit photos of them participating. These photos are shared on that school's social media page.





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### SCHOOL SITE COUNCILS (SSCs) AND SCHOOL-BASED BUDGETING PROCESS

#### ▫ **School Site Councils**

- Approximately 150 school site council members from all 28 schools participated in a centralized training regarding the SSCs role in the school budgeting process
- A school site council section has been created on each school's website for posting council membership, agendas and minutes
- A section has been created on the district's calendar site to house all of the upcoming SSC agenda and to provide information to visitors on how to access an individual school's SSC webpage





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### SCHOOL SITE COUNCILS (SSCs) AND SCHOOL-BASED BUDGETING PROCESS

- **School-Based Budgeting**
  - Principals are preparing to present their budgets to a central office team for review and collaboration
  - The process is anticipated to be completed by mid-April
  - The budgets will be collectively presented to the School Committee in May



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- ▣ **CENTRAL OFFICE & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER:** As of Tuesday, March 17, both locations have been closed to the public, with all staff working remotely.
  - Even with Central Office and FRC both closed to the public, families will still be able to call both offices:
    - ▣ Central Office - 978-674-4320
    - ▣ FRC - 978-674-4321



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- **REGISTRATION DELAYED:** School registration for preschool was scheduled to start on March 16, and registration for kindergarten was scheduled to start on March 30. We will be delaying both registration periods and will provide you with more details once new dates are finalized.
- **KNOWLEDGE BOWL FINALS DELAYED:** The Knowledge Bowl Finals were scheduled on March 16 and have been postponed. We will let you know when this event will take place once a new date has been set.